WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus for displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) identifying means for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) display inhibiting means for inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reproduction inhibiting means for inhibiting a reproduction of video/audio in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited by said display inhibiting means is accompanied with the video/audio.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising synchronizing means for, in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited by said display inhibiting means is accompanied with the video/audio, synchronizing the display of said 3-dimensional object with the reproduction of said video/audio when the inhibition of the display by said

display inhibiting means is cancelled.

4. An image processing apparatus for displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) identifying means for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) classifying means for classifying the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means to a first group and classifying the other 3-dimensional objects to a second group; and

(C) display control means for controlling the display of said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the group classified by said classifying means.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said classifying means further classifies the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means and video/audio associated with said 3-dimensional object to the first group and classifies the other 3-dimensional objects and video/audio associated with said other 3-dimensional objects to the second group.

6. An image processing apparatus comprising:

(A) receiving means for receiving scene data

describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data;

(B) separating means for separating all of the data received by said receiving means;

(C) access control means for controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means;

(D) media decoding means for decoding the media data separated by said separating means;

(E) scene decoding means for forming copyright-protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the scene data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means; and

(F) rendering means for rendering the 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the media data decoded by said media decoding means and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data formed by said scene decoding means.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said copyright-protected scene data describes a scene which is rendered after authentication, and said copyright-unprotected scene data describes a scene which is rendered irrespective of the authentication.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising instructing means for giving an instruction for an access timing in said access control means in order to adjust a timing for the rendering by said rendering means.

9. An image processing apparatus comprising:

detecting means for detecting a copyright protection node from a language describing a 3-dimensional scene;

identifying means for identifying a 3-dimensional object designated by the copyright protection node detected by said detecting means; and

display inhibiting means for inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified by said identifying means until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said language is a VRML.

11. An image processing method of displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data

describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a display inhibiting step of inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

12. A method according to claim 11, further comprising a reproduction inhibiting step of inhibiting a reproduction of video/audio in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited in said display inhibiting step is accompanied with the video/audio.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising a synchronizing step of, in the case where said 3-dimensional object whose display is inhibited in said display inhibiting step is accompanied with the video/audio, synchronizing the display of said 3-dimensional object with the reproduction of said video/audio when the inhibition of the display in said display inhibiting step is cancelled.

14. An image processing method of displaying a 3-dimensional scene, comprising:

(A) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing

said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a classifying step of classifying the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step to a first group and classifying the other 3-dimensional objects to a second group; and

(C) a display control step of controlling the display of said 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the group classified in said classifying step.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein in said classifying step, the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step and video/audio associated with said 3-dimensional object are classified to the first group, and the other 3-dimensional objects and video/audio associated with said other 3-dimensional objects are classified to the second group.

16. An image processing method comprising:

(A) a receiving step of receiving scene data describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data;

(B) a separating step of separating all of the data received in said receiving step;

(C) an access control step of controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated in said separating step on the basis of the copyright-protected

data separated in said separating step;

(D) a media decoding step of decoding the media data separated in said separating step;

(E) a scene decoding step of forming copyright-protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the scene data separated in said separating step on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated in said separating step; and

(F) a rendering step of rendering the 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the media data decoded in said media decoding step and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data formed in said scene decoding step.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said copyright-protected scene data describes a scene which is rendered after authentication, and said copyright-unprotected scene data describes a scene which is rendered irrespective of the authentication.

18. A method according to claim 16, further comprising an instructing step of giving an instruction for an access timing in said access control step in order to adjust a timing for the rendering in said rendering step.

19. An image processing method comprising:

(A) a detecting step of detecting a copyright protection node from a language describing a 3-dimensional scene;

(B) an identifying step of identifying a 3-dimensional object designated by the copyright protection node detected in said detecting step; and

(C) a display inhibiting step of inhibiting a display of the 3-dimensional object identified in said identifying step until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein said language is a VRML.

21. An image processing system comprising a transmitting apparatus and a receiving apparatus, wherein

(A) said transmitting apparatus includes

transmitting means for transmitting scene data describing a 3-dimensional scene, media data associated with said scene data, and copyright-protected data, and

(B) said receiving apparatus includes:

receiving means for receiving the scene data describing the 3-dimensional scene, the media data associated with said scene data, and the copyright-protected data which were transmitted from said transmitting apparatus;

separating means for separating all of the data received by said receiving means;

access control means for controlling accesses to the scene data and the media data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means;

media decoding means for decoding the media data separated by said separating means;

scene decoding means for forming copyright-protected scene data and copyright-unprotected scene data from the scene data separated by said separating means on the basis of the copyright-protected data separated by said separating means; and

rendering means for rendering the 3-dimensional scene on the basis of the media data decoded by said media decoding means and the copyright-protected scene data and the copyright-unprotected scene data formed by said scene decoding means.

22. A storage medium which stores a computer program, said computer program comprising:

(A) an identifying module for identifying a 3-dimensional object having copyright-protected information among 3-dimensional objects constructing a 3-dimensional scene on the basis of data describing said 3-dimensional scene; and

(B) a display inhibiting module for inhibiting a

display of the 3-dimensional object identified by the identifying process by said identifying module until a predetermined authenticating process is finished.